**MI-17 crash in Poonch, J&K**

43. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force helicopter MI-17 crashed on 21.06.2005 in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured in the accident;

(c) whether an inquiry into the incident has been ordered; and

(d) if so, whether inquiry report has been received if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No person was killed; however, sixteen personnel were injured.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. Necessary action will be initiated on the finalisation of the Court of Inquiry.

**Defence personnel killed in J&K earthquake**

44. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defence personnel, cadre-wise, who lost their lives in Jammu and Kashmir due to the earthquake of 8th October, 2005 and also while engaged in rescue in operations, separately;

(b) whether any special compensation in the form of additional pension and gratuity is proposed to be given to their spouses and dependents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The details of Army personnel killed in earthquake of 8th October, 2005 and

due to landslides/ tremors on subsequent days while deployed in affected areas of J&K are as under:—

| Details | Officers | Junior Commissioned Officers | Other Ranks | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Due to earthquake | 01 | 02 | 35 | 38 |
| Landslides/tremors on subsequent days | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL: | 01 | 02 | 42 | 45 |

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The compensation being paid to the spouse/Next of Kins of the earthquake victims in J&K on 8th October, 2005, is as per the extent provisions.

**Compensation to dependents of deceased service officers**

45. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dependent parents, brothers and sisters of deceased army officers, killed in counter-terrorists and counter insurgency in J&K or elsewhere, are given any share in the compensation or benefits of the deceased service officer, if so, to what extent; and whether payment of such compensation of benefits are determined by the will of the deceased officer; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, the reasons for denying the aged parents and dependents any share in the compensation/benefits payable to deceased's family?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As per the existing policy, *ex-gratia* compensation and pensionary benefits are paid to the widow of the Service Officer, if the deceased is married. The dependent parents, brothers and/or sisters are entitled to the various benefits only in cases where the Officer dies as a bachelor/widower without children. Provisions and procedures exist to arbitrate between the widow